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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE
Week ending the 17th March 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th March has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1900.

"Mistress of India or Mistress of the world?"

We are sure that England will, in the long run, win the Transvaal war, and it is a surprise to us that victory has been so long delayed. But now comes the news of victory almost every day. Thanks to Lord Roberts's tactics, Cronje, the Boer General, has been taken prisoner and sent to Cape Town. Cronje has the reputation of a brave and skilful General. He beat back British troops more than once. But that skilful General, that lion of the Transvaal, now humbly prays for kind treatment. Thanks to Lord Roberts's generalship, British troops have surmounted all obstacles and defeated the Boers. He has accomplished what the other British Generals failed to achieve. India is proud of Lord Roberts' successes; for, to tell the truth, he is an Indian. He was born in Cawnpore, and the best part of his life was spent in India. He no doubt received his military education in England, but it was India which was his best field for military training. He won his spurs in many Indian battle-fields, and he was crowned with glory by defeating the turbulent Afghans. It is a great satisfaction to us that it is Lord Roberts of all the Queen's Generals that has vanquished the warlike Boers. Closely following the news of the surrender of Cronje came the news of the relief of Ladysmith. General Buller and Lord Dundonald have proudly entered that town. The courage, herosim and perseverance with which the British troops defended Ladysmith stand unparalleled in history. General White has acted like a hero. He bravely stood the fire from the enemy's heavy guns called "Long Toms," and was not disheartened even by the repeated failures of General Buller to relieve the besieged city. It is the courage of such heroes which has shed so much lustre on the Queen's Empire, and made it great without a parallel. Our Queen is not merely the Mistress of India: she is the Mistress of the world. There is no country in the world where her name is not respected; there is no place which her war ships or merchant ships have not visited; there is no nation which does not fear her people. It was in an evil moment that the tiny Boers declared war against almighty England. If they are now desirous of peace, if they desire to prevent wailings in every Boer home, Krüger and Joubert should humbly pray to the Queen-Empress for peace and protection. She is the very incarnation of kindness, and she may yet forgive them. It was foolish on the part of the illiterate Boers to have declared war against a nation who are well known for their bravery, who are proverbially rich, whose Empire embraces over a third part of the globe, and who vanquished even the invincible Napoleon. Skilful warriors went to the Transvaal from all parts of the world to guide the Boer army, but they have all been outwitted by Lord Roberts. Lord Roberts's achievements have surprised the world. England has nothing to fear even from a combination of all the powers against her.

2. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th March says that the news of the relief of Kimberley and the surrender of the Boer General, Cronje, with 4,000 men, was received with great enthusiasm by the Midnapore public. *Sankirtan* parties came out, and the people paraded the streets, spreading this happy news. The rejoicing was general, and many respectable pleaders and zamindars joined the public in their rejoicing.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

3. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

Cronje's defeat. We love manliness, and are really pained to see unnecessary bloodshed. The Boer war would not have soon come to an end, but for Cronje's surrender; and, by God's will, Cronje is now a prisoner with the English. The world's history, however, will always proclaim the valour which was shown by that Boer General.

Cronje was the glorious sun of Boer independence, and the glory of the Boers has vanished with Cronje's defeat. The strategy of the British Generals, which led to Cronje's surrender, reminds us of Abhimanyu's defeat as narrated in the *Mahabharata*. With a following of only 4,000 to 5,000 Boer peasants, Cronje fought for nine days, without food or sleep, against a large

number of well-trained British soldiers. Praised be the Boer General's perseverance, praised be his valour and prowess, and praised be his desire to maintain the independence of his country! Cronje's gallantry has called forth encomiums even from brave British soldiers. At Magersfontein Cronje had with him a little over 10,000 troops, but seeing the odds against him, he decided not to fight, and sent away 5,000 of his men. He himself might have escaped, had he not been encumbered with women and children. He, therefore, fought as he retreated, and killed a large number of British troops. He was at last surrounded at Koodoo's Rand. He fought here day and night for nine days. Friend and foe must both admire the gallantry of the man who could hold his own for nine days against such enormous odds.

4. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

The British in the Transvaal war.

The British have been victorious in the Transvaal war. This gives us great pleasure, for we wish to live under the rule of a victorious Government, under the protection of a sovereign who is respected all the world over. God has fulfilled that wish. British power has now proved itself invincible, British prestige has been maintained, and British superiority will now be acknowledged by the world. We are proud to live under the rule of such a glorious and powerful nation.

But in what does British superiority consist? It consists not so much in British power and fighting skill as in British determination to maintain national prestige at all costs. In the beginning of the war the British people contemptuously treated the Boers and underestimated their fighting resources. But when one defeat after another at Boer hands convinced them that they were dealing with an enemy worthy of their steel, every Briton, from the Queen to the beggar, resolved to carry the war to a successful issue at all costs. Defeat did not stagger him. The death of dear and near relatives did not dislocate his mind. Calmly and steadily he proceeded to recover lost ground, disregarding the flouts and gibes of his neighbours, unmoved by the sneer of the whole world. That brave, warlike octogenarian, Lord Roberts, did not allow himself to be unnerved even by the death of that one only son, who was his prop in old age, and the object of all his love and affection. He subdued his grief, and went to the front to maintain national honour and prestige. Three of Lord Salisbury's sons are on the scene of action. Their mother has died, but still they have not returned to their father. The Earl of Ava, Lord Dufferin's eldest son, has been killed in action. To tell the truth, there is no aristocratic family in England which has not sent one or more members to the front. The Duke of Connaught humbly prayed for the permission of the War Office to go to the war, but his prayer was not granted. But Prince Christian and many other members of the Royal family have been permitted to go to the front. Nor is this all. The feeling of nationality is so strong that in all the English Colonies, from Canada to Australia, every British heart has readily responded to every other, and the whole Empire has been moved as if with one current of electricity. Mr. Lumsden is a tea-planter. He has wealth and position; there are many ties to bind him to the world, but he has risen superior to all selfish considerations, paid Rs. 50,000 from his own pocket, equipped a Volunteer Corps, and gone to South Africa with his party. Englishmen from all parts of India enthusiastically responded to his call to arms. Two hundred and fifty men were wanted, but one thousand applications came in, and Mysore and Coorg, Murree and Mussouri, Assam and the North-Western Provinces, one and all, sent their Volunteers. What does this prove? It is a proof of that greatness of heart, of that vigorous vitality which enables a man to sacrifice everything for the sake of national welfare and to dominate the world.

Degraded Bengali! fallen Bengali! The British nation is your ideal. It is your desire to learn the English language, to put on English dress, and to imitate English manners. You furnish your house with English furniture, you clothe your wife and children in English garments, you love everything English. But do you not feel inclined to imitate that spirit of self-sacrifice, that desire to maintain national prestige and glory at all costs, that unity of hearts, which have been displayed by the British people? Why are those, who worship such a high ideal, so low?

And you, English-educated Bengalis, you who are abusing the English and finding fault with their all-devouring earth-hunger, have you not learnt to criticise the conduct of the English in this way from Englishmen themselves—from Frederic Harrison and John Morley? Is it not English writings and English newspapers from which you have formed your ideas? Cronje's bravery and Joubert's tactics have agreeably surprised you, but is it not English newspapers which have taught you to appreciate their valour? Can you appreciate the greatness of that heart which appreciates the good qualities even of an enemy, and does not hesitate to give even the enemy his due? You have failed to rightly estimate the greatness of the English, and the Boer defeats have pained you. But your wives still respect the English and wish them success. Why? Because they are religious, and you are not. They fear God and you do not fear Him. They can make self-sacrifice, and you cannot.

To tell the truth, there is as much difference between the English and ourselves as there is between heaven and hell, between a god and a fiend. We have imitated only the vices of the English. Oh teach us to be men!"

5. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March has the following:—

The rejoicing for the British victories in the war.

Lord Roberts's victories and Cronje's surrender have been followed by rejoicing from one end of the country to the other. But ours is a feeling of

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

joy mixed with grief. We almost shudder to think of the price at which victory has been purchased by us. We hesitate to rejoice, and our mind is overpowered with grief even on this occasion of rejoicing. Not even an annihilation of Boer territories will be a sufficient compensation for the valuable lives that have been lost, and the millions that have been spent in the war. We are decorating Lord Roberts' statue with garlands, we are singing his victories aloud, and England's prestige has been enhanced by his skill and valour. But will the decorations to his statue and the congratulations of the Empire enable that veteran soldier to forget the death of his only son?

It does not look well for us to be so much elated with joy. Have not the British victories in this disastrous war deprived many British mothers of war-like sons? Will the sound of the wailing that has been raised in almost every English home be lost in the roar of the rejoicing? Will the tears of the widow and the grief of mothers bereft of brave sons be so easily forgotten? It is well that the British have become victorious. It was certain that they would win in the long run. Why then this sudden outburst of rejoicing?

Is this the time to rejoice? Is the victory so strange and unexpected that there should be rejoicing in every home, resembling the dance of devils (*pisach*) on the cremation ground? We are not inclined to give ourselves up to rejoicing, like drunkards, forgetful of our multifarious duties. Moreover, we are not sure whether we should rejoice or lament on the present occasion. We see no reason for this rejoicing. We still feel the pang which the Boers have caused us. Will this small, insignificant victory heal the wound which the Boers have caused in England's heart? England, it is true, may send a hundred soldiers to kill one Boer, she may spend millions for every pound spent by her enemy; but she can have no cause for rejoicing.

Did the British defeats and reverses in the beginning of the war give us cause for despair and disappointment? If not, why should this victory give us cause for joy and rejoicing? It is now necessary that in a calm and humble spirit we should try our best to preserve British prestige, and prevent any stain being cast on England's fair fame. Lord Roberts's victory should indeed cause England satisfaction, but nothing has happened to make us fill the four corners of the world with the sound of rejoicing. Will England, the birth-place of Nelson and Wellington, forget herself and give herself up to rejoicing on account of this small victory? It is true that Lord Roberts has shed lustré on England by his victories, but it is not well that we should allow ourselves to be overpowered with joy in this way.

Nay, instead of rejoicing over our victories, we ought to praise the enemy for their valour. Every hero, every Englishman, should praise the enemy like the *Englishman* newspaper. To tell the truth, it is impossible not to extol the heroism and patriotism of the enemy. Who will not praise Cronje, that invincible Boer General, who, with a handful of men, gallantly defended himself against countless British soldiers? He surprised the world with his

heroic defence. He did not surrender before he was exhausted. He defended himself even when his rations were all exhausted, and he was compelled to surrender only when his ammunition was entirely gone. So long as there was any hope of relief coming to him, he fought like a tiger, and his surrender has not tarnished his fair fame, and has not lowered him in the estimation of the world. He is being praised everywhere for his unparalleled valour and heroism.

It is true that we have become victorious, but we should not forget ourselves. The Boers had invaded British territories, and have been driven back, Cronje has surrendered, and the Boer army, which had invested Ladysmith, has raised the siege. Ladysmith has been relieved without a fight. For this we need not loudly rejoice. It is only natural that all British subjects should be pleased with the victory, but it is not necessary that they should make a demonstration of their joy. The time for rejoicing has not yet come.

6. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 10th, 1900.

Rejoicing for British victory. The most welcome news of the relief of Ladysmith and Kimberley and the surrender of the Boer General Cronje, with all his men, was received with heartfelt joy by the high as well as the low in India. In every province, in every Division, in every district, in every Subdivision, in every city, in every village, nay, in every house, there was a demonstration of this joy. Indians are ever loyal to the British, and therefore they consider a British victory as their own victory. The loyal Indians are indeed glad at the victory of their most affectionate Queen. The Native States of India have also joined the British subjects in their rejoicing. There are rejoicings in Kashmir, Patiala, Karpurtala, Jhind, Nava, Faridpur, Gwalior, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Jaypur, Indore, Baroda, Mysore, Hyderabad, and in all other tributary States. There were salutes fired for the relief of Kimberley, for the surrender of Cronje, and for the relief of Ladysmith. The Nizam is transported with joy. He is glad at the victory of the English, and gladder for the glory earned by his friend, Lord Roberts.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Mar. 6th, 1900.

7. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 5th March complains that there has been a recrudescence of theft in Comilla town. The thefts are probably being committed by some thieves who have come from other districts, and are now living in the town.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI.

8. A correspondent writing in the same paper from village Satmari, in the Tippera district, complains that the chaukidars are never seen to be out at night in the village, and consequently there has been a recrudescence of theft in it. Thefts and other crimes are not being traced, and the residents live in constant dread of *badmashes*.

PALLIVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

9. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 7th March writes as follows with reference to a case in which a girl named Bhulu Devi was most brutally murdered at Kalna, in the Burdwan district, in broad daylight:—The police has not yet been able to bring the perpetrator of this horrible crime to justice, although the Assistant District Superintendent of Police made a very careful enquiry into the matter. Under these circumstances, an experienced detective should be deputed to trace the offender.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

10. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th March says that on the 24th December last, a poor cultivator of Benibanathra, near Lucknow, growing anxious at the non-return of his wife, who had gone into the forest to collect fire-wood, went out to search for her. Immediately on entering the woods, he found her dead body lying near a bush. On examination, death was found to have been due to a rifle shot. Two soldiers were suspected, but were acquitted for want of evidence.

There can be no manner of doubt about the poor woman's death. It is also certain that she neither committed suicide nor died of any disease. The

post-mortem examination clearly showed that she was shot to death. One of Her Majesty's subjects has come by her death in this manner in broad daylight, and will no more enquiry be held into the matter? Is the life of an Indian a thing to be so trifled with? What are the local authorities doing? It is to be regretted that in a province ruled over by Sir Antony MacDonnell such indifference should be shown in the investigation of a murder case.

11. A correspondent writes in the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th March that the Police Inspector of Baranagore, 24-Parganas district, is acquiring landed property in the place. The editor remarks that there are other serious allegations against him

NAVA YUG,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

12. The same paper has the following:—

NAVA YUG.

Fraudulent druggists in Calcutta. Some low-minded people in Calcutta are defrauding the public by giving their firms European names. These men, though illiterate, generally carry on the profession of a druggist, and defraud the public by assuming European names. They profess to import medicines from America, and thus impose on the public. The attention of the Commissioner of Police is drawn to this.

13. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March publishes a letter from a correspondent, complaining that the Sub-Inspector of the Tollygunge Thana has been transferred, and two Constables attached to the same thana have been dismissed for the arrest of two servants of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. On the night of the 26th February last, these two servants of the Chief Justice, called Ramjan Ali and Jay Karan Dhupi, were coming with seven or eight friends from the direction of the Russa road, making a great noise all the time. The Constables of the beat asked them to keep quiet, but they abused the Constables and went on vociferating. They were, therefore, arrested and taken to the thana, where the Sub-Inspector, learning that they were the servants of the Chief Justice, released them on bail. They were prosecuted, and the hearing of the case against them was to come off on the 28th February; but orders were passed before that date, dismissing the Constables and transferring the Sub-Inspector.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

14. A correspondent writing in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that there are a large number of *badmashes* in village Sonapur, in the Goalundo subdivision of the Faridpur district, who live by theft. Turning out cattle on other peoples' crops, stealing paddy from the fields by night, taking away by force articles from shopkeepers, setting fire to houses, and outraging the modesty of women, are among their every-day work. No one, however, ventures to oppose them. If their cattle are sent to the pounds, the pound-keepers release the animals without exacting any fees, because they fear them. Some gentlemen of the village stood against them, and thus incurred their displeasure, with the result that the school house was burnt down. There is no doubt that the dacoity and act of incendiarism, which were committed in the house of the Bardhaus of Dakhinbari, a village close to Sonapur, were the doings of these *badmashes*. Dacoities will not cease in the district so long as these *badmashes* are not put down, and the Government should depute an experienced officer to deal with them.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March complains of the recrudescence of theft in certain villages in the Bogra district. The chaukidars are rarely out on their rounds, and nothing is gained by reporting thefts to the police.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

16. The *Hindi Bangabasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March says that, being oppressed by the local police, the people of Kallar, a village within the jurisdiction of the Kahata tahsil in Rawalpindi, submitted a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, stating in detail the manner in which they are being oppressed by the above police. The petition lays special stress upon the fact that the police, having come to know that the people of Kallar intended to petition the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab against it, actually plundered a shop. In fact, if the statements contained in the petition be correct, the police, whose business it is to protect the weak against the strong, is really playing the part of a

HINDI BANGABASI,
Mar. 12th, 1900.

dacoit. Such an offence committed by the police should not go unpunished under the present ruler of the Panjab.

BANGABHUMI,
Mar. 13th, 1900.

17. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March complains that the Oppression by soldiers at Barrackpore. men of the Madras regiment, now stationed at Barrackpore, often come into the village Dhita, which is close to the Barrackpore cantonment, pluck fruits, commit other oppressions on the villagers, and threaten them with assault if they object. For some time their oppressions had been put down by the authorities on the motion of the villagers. But they are at their old tricks again. These oppressions, though of a petty nature, often lead to serious consequences.

MANBHUM,
Mar. 13th 1900.

18. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 13th March has the following:—
Wandering tribes in the Chota Nagpur district. Some days ago a band of wandering people passed through Purulia, watched as usual by the police. But police-constables are no match for these men. Besides committing thefts and dacoities, they often commit oppressions on the poor villagers, and take away from them, by force, anything they catch hold of. They are so emboldened that they do not shrink from committing oppressions even in British territory. Their oppressions know no bounds when they pass through the several small political States in the Chota Nagpur Division. Once they committed some grave oppressions on some innocent native Christians at Ranchi, and the matter having been brought to the notice of the Government by the Christian missionary, of the place, an enquiry was instituted, and the oppressions were proved. But none ventured to come forward to complain against them in a law court. In many instances poor villagers are unwilling to seek redress in the law courts. It is, therefore, not easy to put down such oppressions. We have heard that a legislative measure had been once proposed to prevent these people from wandering about. No delay should be made in carrying the proposal into effect.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

19. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 7th March says that on the first day of the last Mukhtarship Examination, which commenced on the 21st February last, no question papers were distributed to the candidates at 10 o'clock. The candidates grew anxious, and half an hour later, Mr. Graham, Secretary of the Board of Examiners, accompanied by the Examiners, appeared on the scene, and entered into a consultation. About a quarter before 11 A.M., Mr. Graham mounted the platform and began to dictate some questions from a paper written in pencil. But as his voice could not be heard from every part of the hall, the candidates clamoured. Mr. Graham then made an attempt to write out the questions on the black-board; but finding that it was no easy task to write out such a large number of questions in that way, he gave up the attempt. At length a number of copies of the question paper were prepared, and were read out at different parts of the hall. But though the candidates lost about an hour-and-a-half in this manner, they were allowed only an extra half hour to make up the loss. Will examination scandals never cease?

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

20. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 7th March has the following:—
An order by Babu Dina Nath De, Deputy Magistrate of Murshidabad. Babu Dina Nath De, Deputy Magistrate of Murshidabad, has ordered that in summons cases the parties must deposit in court the travelling allowances of witnesses, as is done in civil courts, in addition to the usual *talabana*, before processes can be issued against their witnesses. This rule has also been made applicable to some warrant cases. Though clause 3, section 204 of the Criminal Procedure Code, says that in summons cases no process will be issued until the process-fees and other fees have been paid, processes had been so long issued on the payment of only the *talabana*, and the parties had been exempted from paying any other fee. Perhaps the thought that it would go hard with poor people if they were made to pay the other charges made the Magistrates exempt the parties from paying anything except the *talabana*. Dina Babu refused to cancel his order, though he was entreated by the mukhtars to do so. Poor men will not be able to come to court if this rule is not cancelled.

21. The Bolpur correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

The case of the native girls shot
by Europeans.

March says that the police investigation in the case in which the two little daughters of Babu Jugul Kishor Sarkar of Bolpur, district Birbhum, were hurt by some stray shots from the gun of the Assistant Engineer of the East Indian Railway (see Report of Native Papers for the week ending the 3rd March 1900, paragraph 4) has at last come to an end. One of the bullets caused an inch deep wound on the head of the elder girl, and the bullet was extracted in the Birbhum hospital. In spite of this and other proofs, the police have not sent up the accused for trial. We hope our just Lieutenant-Governor will not remain silent in the matter. A man who went to shoot in a tank situated in the middle of a village and shot a human creature might not be guilty in the opinion of the police, but can the District Magistrate, too, be of the same opinion as the police? Why did he not order the police to send up the accused?

22. The same paper has the following:—

The Pledership Examination.

From the way in which the Pledership Examination is conducted, it is not to be thought that the Committee appointed to conduct it take any interest in their work. The candidates have to secure 66 per cent. in every subject. But this is no easy thing, and over and above this, the questions are made too difficult for the candidates. It seems as if the Committee are not willing to see the candidates succeed in the examination. This year some of the questions were so difficult that none could answer them satisfactorily. The candidates, for instance, were asked to draft a plaint. No one can answer such a question unless he has had some experience as a practising lawyer. In another paper, though 160 was the full mark, the marks allotted to the several questions in that paper gave a total of only 144. Does not this mean extreme carelessness?

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

Mr. Maguire, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum.

In no other civilised country except India is one and the same person vested with both judicial and executive powers. Here a Magistrate is like the Dasanan (the ten-headed) of the *Ramayan*. He does not, indeed, possess ten heads, but he is invested with tenfold powers. He is Magistrate, Collector, head of the police and Chairman of the District Board—all in one. He is also sometimes appointed manager of the estate of a minor within his jurisdiction. The evil of this arrangement has been strikingly manifested in the case of Mr. Maguire, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. He did great injustice in the case of the East India Coal Company, which came up to the High Court. The High Court has strongly censured the conduct of Mr. Maguire. We fail to understand why Mr. Maguire is so much favoured by the Government. But Mr. Maguire is not alone in the perpetration of injustice. Messrs. Radice and Phillips were equally high-handed. In a country where people are docile and law-abiding, unlimited powers in the hands of an official are sure to prove injurious to public interests. It is a regret that the Government is not reforming the existing system, on the excuse of want of funds.

24. Referring to the case in which Mr. Foster, Deputy Magistrate and

HITAVADI.

Mr. Foster of Jalpaiguri.

Collector of Jalpaiguri, went beyond his jurisdiction in sending some people to *hajat* under section 110 of the Indian Penal Code, and the Deputy Commissioner upheld his decision, the same paper wants to know how these two erring officials will be dealt with by the Government. It will be a discredit to the Government if it does not take them to task.

(d)—Education.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India."

In his convocation speech, Lord Curzon said, in reference to educational reform, that the drifts and fords of the Indian educational system had been attacked and the kopjês were soon going to be assaulted. A drift has been assaulted and taken by issuing the Resolution on the selection of text-books, and by prescribing Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" as a text-book for the Entrance Examination a kopjê has been taken. When Mr. Buckland, the Commissioner of the

Presidency Division, himself led the attacking forces, it was hopeless for Babus Kalicharan and Bhupendranath to oppose and win.

General Buller had two objects in view. The first was to relieve Ladysmith, the second to annihilate the Boer army. Mr. Buckland also had two objects in view. The first was to get Lee-Warner's book prescribed as a text-book, and the second was to introduce the duties of a citizen as a permanent subject of study for the candidates for the Entrance Examination. But thanks to Dr. Mukharji's skill, Mr. Buckland could not carry out his second object.

In the Saturday's fight, Mr. Buckland and Dr. Mukharji pressed for the acceptance of the "Citizen of India" as a text-book under cover of a hot rifle-fire. Babu Bhupendranath Basu, Mr. Begg and eight others entrenched themselves, and fought hard to protect the Entrance students, but in vain. Mr. Buckland won the battle. Babu Bhupendranath Basu prayed for a compromise, and proposed that the book might be prescribed as a text-book for the F. A. Examination. But no compromise was accepted.

There is no doubt that England will win in the long run in the Transvaal war. But it is the opinion of some wise men that, though defeated, the Boers will make South Africa a home of discontent and disturbance. Mr. Buckland has won, but Indian schools will henceforward become hot with political discussions.

To speak in plain language, the book is not fit for Entrance students. Both its language and its thoughts are unintelligible to them. It is a regret that the supporters of the book failed to see this. If it is possible to get any remedy from the Senate, the matter should be carried to that body.

26. The *Basumati* of the 8th March has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

The need of denominational schools in India.

We are opposed to English education, as it is at present imparted, as being an education of which there is no practical application, and which is unsystematic in its character and Godless in its tendency. It appears to us that every defect of conduct and character that has crept into the English educated native community is due to defects in our present system of education. Every one who has received English education is weak—weak in mind as well as weak in character, for an education that has the effect of rendering its recipients fond of luxury and self-indulgence must have, in the end, a deteriorating and debilitating effect on the character. Under the influence of English education the Sikh in the Panjab, the Mahratti in Bombay, the Rajput in Rajputana, and the Bengali Babu in Bengal have become much the same in character—constantly afraid of death, suffering every moment from disease and bereavement, utterly languid and debilitated by want and distress, but at the same time indulging in no end of luxury as soon as there is any affluence to buy it. So much for the results of education! The country would fare better without such education. It would be better for a subject people not to get an education which creates love of luxury. It is not every native who has lost his character by receiving English education. We have seen English-knowing natives of great independence and strength of character. But their number is very few! This is why we say that those recipients of English education, who are men of character and principle, are such not in virtue of that education or of passing University examinations, but in virtue of their innate worth.

We are therefore obliged to say that it would be better for the country if the present system of University education were abolished. We are not opposed to English education, as such; we are, we should say, extremely partial to it. It is not probable that English education will disappear from this country, even if it is discouraged. It will remain in the country for sometime to come. It is not in the power of anybody, no, not even in the power of the British Government, to abolish it. If we do not take the Englishman's hat and coat, his beef and beer, his gait and manners of the body, and his luxurious indulgence, and try to imbibe with our knowledge of English, little by little, the humanity, the generosity, the courage, the endurance, the patriotism and the other manly traits in the English character, we shall be amply rewarded for our pains. That will be the best English education for us, and that is the English education which we should set ourselves to acquire. The question is what should we do to obtain this English education.

One thing we should do well to bear in mind at starting. However Anglicised a Bengali may become by receiving English education, he will never cease to be a Bengali. So long as Bengalis live in Bengal, so long shall they remain Bengalis. This is the decree of soil and climate, and if there be truth in the theory of environments, there must also be truth in this. It will be clear from a study of the course and effects of English education during the last fifty years that the educated Bengali has not lost his Hinduism. It is therefore possible to learn English without losing the national character and the example of Englishmen may be followed without being Anglicised.

To attain this object we must have denominational schools in our country. The English Government says that it cannot teach any particular religion, and that it must observe neutrality in religious matters. This is partly true and partly untrue. The English are truly neutral in educational matters; they are, to a great extent, neutral in administrative affairs, but they are freely spending Indian money—money paid by Hindus and Musalmans—on a Christian clergy. We do not blame them for doing this. The predominant religion of a country must be the religion of the governing body. Administration cannot be carried on if provision is not made for the religious instruction of the governing body. The sceptre cannot be wielded in utter forgetfulness of God. Be that as it may, when Indian money is being spent in maintaining a Christian clergy, why should not that money be spent on the maintenance of the religions of the different Indian communities? It would be wrong not to spend money for that purpose. We ask Government to abolish all its colleges as well as the Educational Department, and entrust Hindus, Musalmans, Sikhs and Jains with the charge of their respective colleges, and to place those colleges under University inspection. In those colleges English education should be imparted according to the curriculum prescribed by the University, and instruction should, at the same time, be imparted in the principles and practices of the respective religion, the students in the boarding-houses being brought up in the observance of their respective religious practices. All such schools and colleges should be aided by Government, and inspection should be done by inspectors appointed by Government. Those who would wish to set up colleges without Government aid should be required to declare the particular religion according to the principles of which they intend to conduct their colleges. There are now private schools and colleges in every part of Bengal. These are nothing but shops for the sale of knowledge. The proprietors of these schools and colleges care very little for the education of the students, or for the formation of their character. All that they care for is how to pass the largest number of students, how to increase the number of their students, and how to make money.

We wish to say for these reasons that all will be well if Government reorganises the Education Department, with a view of encouraging and facilitating the establishment of denominational schools in this country.

27. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th March has the following:—

NAVA YUG,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

Sir William Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" has been prescribed as a text-book for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. It is nearly a year since the Government gave the author permission to write the book. If the University had rejected the book, who knows that the author would not have brought a suit for damages against the Government? The University has indeed done a service to the Government by imposing the burden on the shoulders of young boys. But did the Fellows of the Calcutta University raise the question of merit when they substituted Pandit Haraprasad Sastri's 'History of India' for Mr. R. C. Dutt's History as a text-book for the Entrance Examination? It is said that some member of the History Board then said: "Let Haraprasad make something out of it." That member corrected the mistakes in the Pandit's book, and helped him to issue a fresh edition. The irregularities which are being brought to light every day in the selection of text-books, is a discredit to the civilized British Government. We have always asked the Government to remove these irregularities, but who will hear us?

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March has the following:—

Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India." It would have been much better if the authorities had imposed a tax upon the candidates for the Entrance Examination in order to pay Sir William Lee-Warner an allowance. It is highly objectionable to compel the students to read this book, full as it is of mistaken notions and prejudices, on the excuse of giving them good instruction. We believe that every educated Indian will support our opinion. The object of Sir William Lee-Warner's book is to teach the Indian youth the duties of a citizen, and the Government, with its unlimited powers at its back, has, by appointing it as a text-book, held before the students a living example of its own duty towards them.

Mr. Buckland, in proposing the appointment of the book as a text-book for the Entrance Examination, said that in order to prevent it from pressing upon the students as an additional burden, easier and smaller text-books should be prescribed on the other subjects in the place of the existing text-books. This means that the "Citizen of India" should anyhow be included in the curriculum of the Entrance Examination, and the students must buy it at a price which is twice as high as that which should be its fair price. Books of the same size can be had for half the price which has been fixed for the "Citizen of India." Even the Central Text-Book Committee would reject a book submitted to it for its approval if it were so highly priced. But the book in question has been fortunate enough to enlist official support in its favour, and any price can be fixed for it.

We are objecting to the book in spite of the official support it has received in the hope that an official may, some day or other, be won over to the side of justice and reason. Injustice cannot last long under British rule, and the delay in righting a wrong is due to our inability to clearly explain ourselves to the authorities and to their inability to clearly understand us.

"It cannot be a matter of indifference," writes the author of the "Citizen of India," "what lessons we teach to the young, for what they learn they will pass on to others." We object to Sir William's book for this very reason. The prejudices, mistaken notions, and malice which Sir William contracted in this country have been fully reflected in his book.

We do not think that the Indian students should not be taught their duties towards their country, their society, and their sovereign; but we believe that it is not advisable to compel them to waste their valuable time on the discussion of those rights and duties about which there is difference of opinion between the rulers and the ruled. The student life is the time for acquiring knowledge and not the time for discussing intricate political questions. What is superstition or prejudice in the opinion of Sir William Lee-Warner may not be superstition or prejudice in the opinion of other people. Students should first acquire knowledge and then proceed to the examination of political questions.

A text-book for an examination should contain nothing controversial, and a book which contains controversial matter should not be prescribed as a text-book for an examination. Still Sir William Lee-Warner's book has been appointed a text-book for a University examination!

In his preface, Sir William thus enumerates the questions which a student should study:—

"How am I governed, and what is expected of me? What becomes of the taxes I pay? What is done to keep me and my property safe, and to protect me from disease and famine?"

But is it so very necessary that the candidates for the Entrance Examination should answer these questions? Lord Lytton said, during his Viceroyalty, that the British Government had repeatedly broken their promises. Is it necessary that the students should learn this? The Government imposed a tax on the people in the name of famine insurance, and made an improper use of it. Is it necessary that the Entrance students should discuss this question? Sir William Lee-Warner has, of course, concealed these facts in his book and has tried to teach the students partial and even perverted truths.

29. The same paper complains that this year the Registrar of the Calcutta University did not request the authorities of many schools to send senior teachers for the purpose of superintending the Entrance Examination. One

The appointment of guards at the last Entrance Examination.

HITAVADI.

fails to understand why this long-standing practice was not followed this year. Thus, while many schools were not requested to depute guards to the examination hall, an Entrance student of the Kalighat school, called Kanai Lal, was appointed a guard. He is a brother of Bhavatosh Chatterji, a clerk in the Presidency College. Another brother of Bhavatosh, who has no connection whatever with any school, and some of his neighbours, too, were appointed guards. The truth of this complaint has been ascertained by enquiry, and it is hoped that the University authorities will enquire why and how this jobbery was committed.

It is said that the book containing the answers of the candidate No. 939 to the morning paper in Mathematics has disappeared. Is this true?

30. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 11th March says that Sir William Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" is too difficult a book for the Entrance candidates, but nothing is impossible in India. We hear that Hygiene will also form a subject for the Entrance Examination. The boys are already overburdened with subjects and text-books, and additional pressure will be put upon them. What can we say? Who will hear us? It is better to remain silent.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Mar. 11th, 1900.

31. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March has the following:—
The other day Babu Krishna Kamal Bhattacharyya, Principal of the Ripon College, went to the Senate House on business, and was sitting in the office room of the Assistant Registrar, when Mr. Edwards, Registrar, asked him to leave the room. Babu Krishna Kamal told Mr. Edwards that he ought to have been a little more polite in his behaviour. On this Mr. Edwards became so much excited that Krishna Kamal Babu feared an assault from him. The matter, however, did not go so far as that. Although this sort of things is not new in this country, in the present case, the persons concerned are both Principals of Colleges, and Mr. Edwards, being the Principal of a distinguished College, ought not to have been so short-tempered.

BANGABHUMI,
Mar. 13th, 1900.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

32. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 5th March complains that the Municipal Commissioners of Comilla are indifferent to, and unmindful of, their duty. Most of them do not attend meetings even once a month. In the last Budget Committee business had to be put off for want of a quorum. On the 4th March last a Committee was to have sat to dispose of objections against assessments, but no Commissioner, except the Vice-Chairman, was present, and consequently business had to be postponed. Most of the Municipal Commissioners are also members of the District Board, and never fail to attend the meetings of the Board, because its Chairman is no other than the Magistrate of the district.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Mar. 5th, 1900.

33. A correspondent writes in the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th March that the Government should make an enquiry into the conduct of those Commissioners against whom Rai Nalinaksha Bahadur complained, and whom the Government has censured, so that the rate-payers of Burdwan may refrain from re-electing them.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1900.

An Official Chairman will, no doubt, manage municipal affairs very efficiently, but the Government should give the rate-payers another trial, and should not deprive them of a cherished right for the fault of a few Commissioners.

34. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that some of the candidates for election to the Calcutta Municipality, such as Messrs. Stark and Andrews, Maulvi Aga-Muhammad Isa, Nawab Nadir Jung and Maulvi Muhammad Abdar Rauk, are so anxious to be elected that they have stood as candidates for more than one ward. Can anybody say why they are so anxious to be elected? The *Englishman* said that leading and active men would stand for election. The Government has passed the new law with the object of inducing European merchants to serve as Commissioners.

SANJIVANI
Mar. 8th, 1900.

But will the *Englishman* or the Government say, how many, among the gentlemen who have stood for election, are European merchants or leading and active men ?

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

35. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes as follows :—

The coming Municipal election. Calcutta Municipality is to take place soon, but

there is no sensation, no liveliness over the affair. Canvassing and evening parties and entertainments are conspicuous by their absence. The new Municipal Act has shorn the Commissioners of all powers, and few are now willing to become Commissioness. The new Commissioners will take their seats on All Fools' day, and they will no doubt be regarded as fools.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

36. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th

Insanitary Bhawanipore.

March that the sanitation of Bhawanipore and Kalighat has not improved since they came under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Municipality. Take the case of Bhawanipore. It is true that it has got filtered water, but its drainage being defective, its soil is becoming damp, and it has therefore become malarious. As there has been an outbreak of plague in Calcutta, it is highly necessary that special care should be taken to improve the sanitation of Bhawanipore. There are lanes in which the drains have become unbearable nuisances. Vigilance committees should be appointed to look after the sanitation of the place.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March requests the Government

The Sitlai ward estate in the Pabna district.

to bring the Sitlai ward estate, in the Pabna district, under the Court of Wards. Srimati Jnanada Sundari Devi, the adoptive mother of the ward, is a helpless tool in the hands of her Dewan, Babu Kaliprasanna Biswas. The Dewan is oppressing the raiyats and misappropriating estate property, but he exercises so great an influence upon his mistress, that he is doing anything and everything with impunity. It is complained that the education of the ward is being neglected. Mr. Nolan, the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, and Mr. Radice, the District Magistrate of Pabna, brought the matter to the notice of the Revenue Board. The District Judge once recommended that the estate should be brought under the Court of Wards, but he has changed his mind. Most of the district authorities are convinced of the desirability of bringing the estate under the Court of Wards, and it is hoped that the Government will lose no time in putting a stop to the high-handedness of Kaliprasanna Biswas.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Mar. 12th, 1900.

38. A correspondent of the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March

Land settlement in the Central Provinces.

says that the land-settlement of 1891-92 has caused great misery to the raiyats of the Central Provinces. The land has been so heavily assessed that its produce is barely sufficient to meet the Government demand. The failure of crops in the Central Provinces for the last two years, caused by the failure of the monsoons, has ruined the cultivating classes, and they gratefully remember the blessed days which they passed after the settlement of land by Sir Charles Elliott.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Mar. 5th, 1900.

39. A correspondent complains in the *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the

The bridges on a road in the Tippera district.

5th March that the bridges on the Companyganj-Navinagore road, in the Tippera district, have been built so low that boats cannot pass under them in the rainy season, when the water is very high.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

40. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 7th March has come to learn the

Attempted outrage on a woman by a railway employé.

following from the *jamadar* of the Sitakundu station, on the Assam-Bengal Railway :—

On the 1st March, at 10 P.M., when the *jamadar* was on duty at the station, a railway employé with two pilgrims, who were apparently drunk, attempted to outrage the modesty of his wife. Hearing the cries of the woman, the *jamadar*, with another railway employé, ran to his house and tried to arrest the culprits. The two pilgrims escaped, but the *jamadar*

succeeded in arresting the railway employé. The *jamadar* complained to the Traffic Inspector, who promised to enquire into the matter. The railway servant concerned in the case drank wine publicly in the office room. This is, no doubt, a serious offence, and the authorities should enquire into it.

41. A correspondent writes the following in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March:—

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

A gentleman assaulted in a railway carriage.

On the 2nd March last, Babu Gopal Saran Singha, a member of the Shahabad District Board, was travelling in a first-class compartment, by the evening passenger train, from Fulbaria station to Arrah, on the East Indian Railway. Some European lads, who were in the same compartment, asked him to leave the compartment. He refused to do so, and was belaboured with cuffs and blows when the train left the station. When the train reached the Arrah station, he called for assistance, and five or six of his men who were in another compartment of the same train, came to his rescue. The guard and the signaller, who were Eurasians, however, prevented them from interfering, and the culprits escaped scot-free. We request the Government to institute an enquiry into the matter.

42. The same paper has the following:—

SANJIVANI.

A railway complaint.

In reply to a question put in the Bengal Council by the Hon'ble Babu Jatramohan Sen regarding the absence of any waiting-room or shed for passengers in the Laksham station of the Assam-Bengal Railway, the Government said that there are waiting-rooms in the station for first and second-class passengers, and a shed for third-class passengers. In giving this reply, the Government evidently relied on the report of the railway authorities. But it is a fact that there is no sort of waiting-room in the station for natives, who suffer a great deal of inconvenience on that account.

43. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March complains that about two weeks ago two European soldiers got into an intermediate-class compartment of a train on the Bengal-

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

A railway complaint.

Central Railway, and greatly annoyed and inconvenienced the native passengers in that compartment. The soldiers were drunk and vomited in the compartment. They got down at the Dum-Dum cantonment station. The railway authorities should reserve one or two compartments in each train for European passengers to save native passengers from their hands.

44. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March writes that the Government's reply to the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji's interpellation regarding the young Eurasian ticket-collectors in the Sealdah station is

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

The ticket collectors at the Sealdah station.

reassuring, but not entirely satisfactory. The Government may think that a warning or a censure will be sufficient for the purpose of mending their ways. But this is a mistake. Passengers will have to suffer so long as haughty, native-hating Eurasian lads are appointed ticket-collectors. Formerly, the majority of the ticket-collectors at the Sealdah station were natives. Why have native ticket-collectors been replaced by Eurasian ticket-collectors? Is not the officer who has appointed Eurasian in place of native ticket-collectors responsible for the existing unsatisfactory state of things in this respect?

45. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the third as well as the intermediate-class passengers are made to

HITAVADI.

A railway complaint.

come to the platform by the same gate at the Sealdah Station. The gate, again, is only partially opened. The rush of passengers, therefore, is very great, and native gentlemen with intermediate-class tickets are put to great inconvenience in making a passage for themselves, through the crowd of low-class natives. No consideration is shown by the gate-keeper to native passengers, but, if there happens to be a European among the crowd, he readily makes a passage for him by opening the gate wide. Formerly there were separate passages for third and intermediate-class passengers. But one of the passages has been closed since the introduction of the plague examination. But why are not two medical practitioners appointed instead of one? The existing arrangement is causing passengers very great inconvenience.

(h)—General.

MANBHUM,
Mar. 6th, 1900.

46. The *Manbhumi* [Purulia] of the 6th March has the following:—

Plague in Midnapore.

The *Chota Nagpur News* says that the plague has broken out in the Midnapore district, but there are no arrangements to protect Purulia against plague contagion from that quarter. Under these circumstances, the plague camp at Chakradharpur should be removed to Sini junction.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

47. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

Plague administration in Dinapore.

The letter of the Dinapore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, describing the rigour of the plague regulations in that place, is enough to make one's hair stand on end. People are dying in large numbers of fever in Daldaribazar, and no one, not even the Civil Surgeon, ascribes these deaths to plague. It is the Magistrate alone who says that the cases are all of plague. Admitting that they are all cases of plague, does not the Magistrate realise that it is treatment of an extremely cruel nature to shut up the residents of the locality in their houses so completely as not to allow them to go out for the purchase of necessaries, or even for the purpose of calling in medical help? Many of these residents have no privies and bathing places in their houses. Their inconvenience, under the Magistrate's order is, therefore, extreme. The other day the Cantonment Magistrate paid the locality a visit. The people made their grievances known to him, and as he did not remedy them immediately, they grew excited and behaved rudely towards him. It is said that the Magistrate called out the military. What was this? We fail to see why the Magistrate created a scene by calling out the military, when all that was necessary to allay the popular feeling was a few sweet words and a little kind treatment. The Lieutenant-Governor, it is to be hoped, will direct his attention to the plague administration in Dinapore.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

48. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes as follows:—

The plague in Calcutta.

There is plague in Calcutta, but no plague scare. We should thank the Government for this. As we have often said, we Indians do not fear to die, for we are fatalists. But domestic honour and sanctity are highly prized by us, and we are thrown into a panic if these are threatened or interfered with. The plague measures which the Government had previously adopted would surely have destroyed the domestic honour of the Hindus, and this is why people fled from Calcutta in a panic. It is true that we have learnt English and eat forbidden food, but still we are thrown into a panic if we come across even the shadow of an Englishman within our house. It is a great pleasure that the English have at last come to understand that there is no remedy against the plague, and that the best policy is to remain calm and quiet. May God bless Sir John Woodburn.

BASUMATI,

49. The same paper writes as follows:—

Literary pensions.

The Government has granted Babu Dines Chandra Sen a pension of Rs. 25 a month, but has not granted a pension to Babu Hem Chandra Banerji. This is, no doubt, a regret, but we are not angry with the Government. It is the Bengalis alone who ought to serve and support their greatest and favourite poet. They have done their duty liberally. If the Government had granted a pension to Hem Chandra, we would have remained satisfied and forgotten our duty towards him. This would have made Hem Chandra suffer, for Rs. 50 a month is a niggardly allowance. If the Government had granted him a pension, we would have, for courtesy's sake, thanked it. It is a great gain that we have been saved from that insincerity. Let not Hem Chandra be anxious. Bengalis have not yet lost their vitality and sense of duty. They have not yet forgotten the lessons he has taught them. They will serve him faithfully.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

50. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March is sorry to hear that the

Government's refusal of a pension to Babu Hem Chandra Banerji.

Government of India has refused a literary pension to the distinguished Bengali poet, Babu Hem Chandra Banerji. It is said that pension has been refused because he has written two patriotic poems entitled "Iharat-Sangit" (India's Song) and "Bharat-Bilap" (Indian's Lament).

It is much to be regretted if this is the reason of his not being granted a pension. What can be more discreditable than for Englishmen, who are the very incarnation of patriotism themselves, to refuse a pension to an Indian poet, because he has written, among other good things, one or two patriotic poems? It is no doubt a matter for congratulation that the authorities have granted a pension to Babu Kishorilal Ganguli for translating the *Mahabharat* into English, and to Babu Dines Chandra Sen for writing a history of the Bengali literature. But it is a shame and a regret that pension has been refused to the patriotic poet, Babu Hem Chandra Banerji. It can hardly be believed that Lord Curzon is so narrow-minded.

51. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March that a plague doctor attached to the Howrah Railway station unnecessarily detained his cousin, one Sasibhushan, on the 19th February last.

A complaint against a plague doctor at the Howrah station.

Sasibhushan had procured the permission of the District Magistrate of Howrah to proceed to Baidyanath, and an intermediate-class ticket had been issued to him. He had also a certificate from an Assistant Surgeon attached to the Medical College Hospital, declaring him free from plague. Notwithstanding this certificate, the plague doctor wanted to examine Sasibhushan, and took him to a private room where he unnecessarily detained him and released him only a few minutes before the train started. This caused the correspondent and Sasibhushan great inconvenience, as they were compelled to get into a third-class compartment. Sasibhushan, who was an invalid, was put to great trouble and suffering.

52. A correspondent writing in the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that the Plague has broken out in Bhuimera, Chaipat, and other villages within the jurisdiction of the Daspur police-station, in the Ghatal subdivision of the Midnapore district, and four persons have died of the disease. But all these are imported cases. Our worthy Collector, Mr. Faulder, with the Sub-divisional Officer of Ghatal, came to inspect those villages, and is making every effort to stamp out the disease from the district. There have been no more deaths, and the Plague-infected huts have all been burnt down, the owners receiving Rs. 36 as compensation. This act of kindness on the part of the authorities has been very much appreciated by the people. The Civil Surgeon of Midnapore is personally supervising the inspection of passengers by steamers. Five Plague camps have been opened in Chaipat and other infected villages, and the families of the persons who have died of the Plague, are now living in these camps. The arrangements made in the camps are excellent, and the people are grateful to the Government and the Sub-divisional Officer of Ghatal for this. The worthy Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of the Daspur police-station are rendering invaluable service in this connection. We are astonished to see how indefatigable in his work the Sub-Inspector is.

The Plague and Plague measures in the Midnapore district.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

SAMAY,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

53. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th March has the following:—

The Telegraphic Press Messages Bill.

We have nothing to do with the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, and therefore refrain from commenting on it. But we must say that the Rs. 40,000, which is annually paid to Reuter's Agency by the Government, is the life-blood of the Indian people. We have been reduced to a skeleton by hunger, and must therefore be sorry if one drop of our blood is spent on a whim.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March says that the owners of mines strongly protested against the Mines Bill, which is now before the Imperial Council, and further discussion on the Bill has been postponed. The new Cooly Bill has also to be put off owing to the opposition of the tea-planters. Protests by Europeans always produce the desired effect.

Postponement of two legislative measures.

NAYA YUG,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 10th, 1900.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

55. Referring to the statement published in the *Calcutta Review* that the practice of *suttee* is still in vogue in Nepal, and to the *Englishman's* remark thereon that the Government of India should call on the Nepal Durbar to put

The alleged practice of *suttee* in Nepal.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 10th, 1900.

down the practice, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes that Lord Curzon is not the editor of the *Englishman* that he should go to quarrel with a Tributary State, depending on some anonymous writing by an obscure man in a quarterly journal.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Mar. 12th, 1900.

56. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March is sorry that the practice of cow-killing is becoming very common in the Tonk State, in Rajputana, which is under

a Muhammadan Chief. The population of Tonk consists mostly of Hindus, some of whom have, it is said, actually left the State, unable to see so many cows, which are sacred in their eyes, daily slaughtered. The ruler of Tonk ought to ascertain whether the complaints of his Hindu subjects are well founded.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA O—
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 7th, 1900.

57. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

The present miserable condition of the Indians.

That we are gradually becoming weaker and weaker in body is a fact which is known to everybody. And this is true not only as regards Bengal, but also as regards the whole of India. Even the Punjabis are gradually becoming smaller in stature. It is not necessary to enquire what has brought this about. The fact is indisputable and universally admitted.

There was a time when these weak Bengalis fought battles. It was with the aid of Bengali soldiers that the English conquered Bihar. Even down to the time of the Sepoy Mutiny, men of weak physique were rarely found in Bihar. Up till fifty years ago that province gave birth only to heroes. The English conquered Bihar with the aid of Bengali troops, the North-Western Provinces with the aid of the Singhs of Bihar, and the Punjab with the aid of the Dobès, Chaubès and Pandès of the North-West. India possessed so many heroes that they could fight the whole world. The country has now been ruined and desolated, and is a vast cremation ground. A little enquiry will enable us to ascertain the condition of the Indians as it was fifty years ago.

The famine of 1176 B.E. depopulated Bengal. That famine was caused by a partial failure of the crops and by the purchase and locking up by the newly-established British Government, which was unacquainted with the condition of the country, of the whole available stock of rice. The distress was followed by seasons of plenty. Providence seemed pained at the sight of distress, and commenced to make good the loss which Bengal had sustained. There were bumper crops, disease and sickness disappeared from the land, and population increased at a rapid rate.

A hundred years ago, there were in every Bengali family eight to ten robust and stalwart young men. Sickness was unknown, and there was in every household an abundant supply of milk and rice. It seemed as if every village at this time was bringing up a regiment of strong and healthy soldiers, and the villagers, as a body, found themselves called upon to deal with questions of such gravity and importance as necessitated an exercise of their courage, intelligence and political faculty.

Every village was like a small State. The English were indeed the rulers of the land, but they lived in the cities, and did not and could not penetrate into the mufassal. The police had not yet been formed, nor were Magistrate and Munsif in existence. Neither the English rulers nor the zamindars had anything to do with the villagers. The Zamindars were too much engrossed with their own affairs to be able to look after the tenantry. The village population was in consequence free from all control by either the Government or the Zamindar.

Disputes now began to occur between one village and another, and these disputes frequently led to fights. Owing to the absence of Governmental control bands of dacoits sprang into existence, and fights between these dacoits and the villagers were very frequent. The result was that Bengalis gradually became a strong-bodied people, and acquired a love for fighting.

We had a pet cat which lived only on milk and slept on a rich and soft bed. During a journey the cat used to be taken within the palanquin. On one of such journeys the creature jumped out of the conveyance, and could not be found. But it turned up after a month, and was found to have changed

a good deal. She was a very soft creature before, but her limbs had, during the time she was away, become tough and strong. There is no difference between a wild cat and a domesticated cat. They are all the same. But the former is a hundred times stronger than the latter. In the same way a Bengali of those days was a hundred times stronger than a Bengali of to-day. For purposes of self-defence, the Bengalis of those days had to acquire physical strength and learn to fight.

But such has now become our condition that life and death have become all the same to us. Not even for one moment are we at ease, for we are strangers to health. Joyousness is a natural characteristic of all creatures. A healthy man is always full of joy, even without any ostensible cause. A cat runs about dancing in joy until it is deprived of its mother's milk. In this way our ancestors, too, passed their days merrily; they were beside themselves with joy at the prospect of an invitation to a feast. But such an invitation now-a-days is regarded as a sort of nuisance. Men have lost the power of digestion, a little mental effort produces giddiness, and a slight indisposition leads to an utter collapse of the system. Therefore life and death have become all the same to us.

58. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes as follows:—

BASUMATI,
Mar. 8th, 1900.

The Lady Dufferin Hospital. We sympathise with the object of the Lady Dufferin Fund, but we believe that the means which have so far been adopted to give effect to that object are wide of the mark. The British Government does not and cannot understand native feeling. Those who have subscribed to the fund and come into contact with the officials never interpret native feeling correctly, for their object is to flatter the officials. They have subscribed to the fund solely with the object of gaining titles, and titles have been copiously and indiscriminately showered upon them. The Lieutenant-Governor regretted that since the opening of the new Dufferin Hospital in Calcutta, which has been built at an enormous cost, no *zanana* lady has applied for admission to it. It is a regret that even an official of Sir John Woodburn's experience has failed to rightly understand the feelings of native women. No respectable native woman would go to a hospital, and if she goes she will lose her caste. The Lieutenant-Governor said that in the Bihar towns respectable native women would come to hospitals if respectable native women were appointed nurses in those hospitals. This is a mistake. Low-class Bihari women may go to hospitals under such circumstances, but respectable Bihari women never.

Lord Curzon seems to have more rightly grasped the situation. His Excellency said that the object of the Dufferin Fund would be better served if female doctors were sent to native homes to treat their female inmates instead of building costly hospitals for the treatment of *zanana* ladies. Lord Curzon was quite right.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 9th, 1900.

59. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March has the following:—

Hem Chandra's loyalty. If, in considering Hem Chandra's case, the attention of an official had been drawn to his loyal poetical effusions, and if he had not depended upon malicious busy-bodies for an opinion on the merits of his case, he would have been certainly convinced of his loyalty and devotion to the Government. Hem Chandra's patriotism is unbounded. It wells spontaneously and copiously out of the depths of his heart, and in giving expression to his feelings, he never cares for consequences. He prays for the welfare and advancement of his country with an overpowering earnestness and enthusiasm. But his patriotism is peaceful and interpenetrated with loyalty. He hates no one, and never desires revolution. He is always a lover of peace and order. He appeals to the Queen even for social reform. He makes the forlorn *kulin* ladies say: 'Come! let us seek the protection of the Queen against this cruel custom.' He shed tears—patriotic and loyal tears—on the retirement of Lord Ripon. Who shall then say that there is no loyalty in the breast of this immortal poet? To question the loyalty of a poet, whose very tears are instinct with loyalty and who sings that 'the Queen is the only protection of the people,' is to act a traitor to the country.

This bold and impartial poet is the favoured of the Muse. A worshipper of the Muse, he does not and cannot curb his pen in expectation of human

favour. When the prince came to India he welcomed him in immortal strains, and that welcome will ever remain fresh in the Indian mind. That loyal welcome was not low-minded flattery, or a hollow and high-sounding verse. It was a loyal and patriotic appeal to the Prince, an echo of a thousand suffering hearts, and a humble prayer for the redress of popular grievances. Those who are always in the habit of saying *ditto* to the powers that be, will fail to appreciate the value of this patriotic welcome. If this be disloyalty, then we should highly prize this disloyalty. If that feeling with which Hem Chandra sang: "Victory to the Queen's sons!" is not loyalty, we have still to learn what loyalty is.

If it is true that this loyal poet has failed to receive royal favour in consequence of bad things said of him by some malicious busy-body, nothing could be more regrettable. It will be a discredit to our nation, it will be a discredit to the Government. But let us hope that the Government will yet help this helpless poet.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Feb. 21st, 1900.

60. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st February is sorry to notice that Dr. Prafulla Chandra Roy of the Bengal Educational Service is unable to secure a place in the higher grade of that service, though he has distinguished himself by original scientific researches, and observes that Government should encourage such research by all means in its power.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Feb. 21st, 1900.

61. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 21st February is informed that copper coins have become scarce in the Balasore district, and suggests that new copper coins may be struck off by the Calcutta mint.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

62. Referring to the election proceedings that are to be held on the 8th March 1900, in connection with the Balasore Municipality, the same paper notices an irregularity, and observes that the list of voters should have been published in due form sixty days before the date fixed for election.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

63. The same paper is sorry to notice that the number of articles imported from Europe and America is increasing day by day, and that we are compelled to depend on foreign countries for our necessities. The writer observes that this is an unnatural state of things, which ought to come to an end as quickly as possible.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

64. Referring to the contemplated changes in the constitution of the Text-Book Committees in Bengal, the same paper approves of the main principles, and hopes that many of the existing abuses will be removed thereby.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

65. Referring to the large export of rice from Orissa, the same paper points out that this unusual drain of food-grain may tell heavily upon the general state of that province, where the last rice crop was not a very good one.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

66. Referring to the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy in this connection, at a meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the same paper points out that it is one of the duties of the Indian Government to preserve the antiquities of the Indian Empire, and that Lord Curzon is exactly the man to understand the importance of the work and act accordingly.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 24th, 1900.

67. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 24th February is glad to find that relief works have been started at Sonapur, Patna, Burasambhar, Phuljhar and Barpali, in the Central Provinces, where the long-standing scarcity of food has deepened into a distressing famine.

UTKALDIPIKA.

68. Referring to the case of police oppression, reported in paragraph 65 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 17th February 1900, the same paper is sorry to notice that the District Magistrate of Cuttack, whose attention was directed to it, has assumed an indifferent attitude

towards the whole question, and has remarked that though he is very willing to receive petitions from the so-called afflicted parties, he has no mind to be moved in any way by the writings of irresponsible newspapers. The writer observes that the District Magistrate, as head of the District Police, is interested in the good administration of the Police Department, and should therefore listen attentively to complaints, based on facts, from whatever quarter they are brought.

UTKALDIPIKA.

69. Referring to the proceedings of the Calcutta Town Hall meeting, held in connection with the great Indian famine, and presided over by His Excellency the Viceroy, the same paper observes that the meeting was a success, and that branch meetings should be held in different districts of India to further the general cause, and save a large number of human beings from a most lamentable death. The writer reminds its readers that no gift is so sacred as the gift of rice.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 17th March, 1900.

